

Remarks

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-5, 7-15, 18-32, and 36-41 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10-12, 18-19, 22, and 24 have been amended. Claims 9, 13, 14, and 24-32 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 18-19 as being indefinite for improperly depending from a cancelled claim. Claims 18-19 have been amended to overcome this rejection.

Additional Remarks

In the Office Action of October September 27, 2006, the Examiner stated that claims 9-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims (Office Action, page 3). Claim 1, from which claim 9 depends, has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 9. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable. The dependency of claim 10 has been changed to claim 1.

Claims 2-5, 7-8, and 10-11 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable, and for the specific limitations recited in each claim.

The Examiner further stated that claim 14 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims (Office Action, page 3). Claim 12, from which claim 14 depends, has been amended to include all the limitations of claims 14. Claim 14 has been cancelled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is allowable.

The Examiner further stated that claims 23-24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims (Office Action, page 3). Claim 22, from which claim 24 depends, has been amended to include all the limitations of claims 24. Claim 24 has been cancelled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 22 is allowable.

The present amendment does not raise any new issues and does not require any further searching on the part of the Examiner. The present amendment places the application in condition for allowance and is believed to be clearly appropriate.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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